



# NOTES FROM THE:

## FM Transformation Program Management Office

by Ms BJ White-Olson

Financial Management Transformation is moving forward with great strides and the response has been overwhelming. Our 5 new initiative task forces and 2 direct deposit task forces for FY03 each have 10-15 members and represent nearly every MAJCOM and a broad cross-section of our bases. The level of expertise and experience brought to this effort virtually guarantees impressive results. Each task force has started their project and received initial training, and our full-time contractor support is in place with each task force. The teams now have a great sense of what they are about: a chance to write the future of Air Force Financial Management.

Our FY03 Transformation Initiative Task Forces include:

- **FMT 03-1 Reengineer O&M Decision Support, Phase 1 End-to-End Review of Resource Management at the Wing/Base Level.** Col Dave Price, HQ AMC, Task Force Lead, and Ms Karen Skoog, Assistant Lead. This task force will examine the role and functions of the base level Financial Analysis offices and resource advisors. It will examine the processes currently in place and look for ways to dramatically enhance decision support while reducing time spent on routine transactions such as target loads and data retrieval.

- **FMT 03-2 Reengineer Acquisition Decision Support, Phase 1, End-to-End Review and Re-engineering of Acquisition Cost Processes.** Mr Jay Jordan, AFCAA, Task Force Lead. This task force will perform an end-to-end review and reengineering of the acquisition cost process at the center/MAJCOM/HQ (including roles and responsibilities) in support of Milestone Reviews, annual POM/Budget submissions, Analysis of Alternatives, source selections, etc.

- **FMT 03-3 Combat Comptroller Concept.** Col Larry Spencer, HQ ACC, Task Force Lead, and Maj Regina Goff, Assistant Lead. The task force will take a strategic view in developing the Combat Comptroller Concept and will evaluate the role of FM at deployed locations, services that could be provided from off-site and enhanced training for deployed personnel. The concept will include solutions to minimize the impact of deployments on home station workload. Finally, the task force will develop Combat Comptroller doctrine that can be taught, practiced, and reinforced to support an expeditionary mindset.

- **FMT 03-4 Reengineer AF / DFAS Relationship, Phase 1 Evaluate Hand-offs Between Air Force and DFAS.** Col Al Flowers, HQ AETC, Task Force Lead, and Col Jack Conroy, Assistant Lead. This initiative will result in a mutually beneficial partnership between AF and DFAS to provide customers best-value, quality financial services and provide decision-makers accurate and timely support with streamlined financial management processes. The task force will evaluate the Field Accounting obligation processes involving hand-offs between Air Force and DFAS for MIPRS, MORDs, Contracts, and Project Orders and determine the optimal role for each.

- **FMT 03-5 FM Knowledge Management Concept, Phase 1 Financial Management Deskbook.** Brig Gen Frank Faykes, HQ AFMC, Task Force Lead, and Mark Sargent, Assistant Lead. Long needed by the FM community, the deskbook will be similar to the Defense Acquisition Deskbook and will include a reference library, keyword search, discretionary practices, policy & procedures, *ask a professor*, wisdom & advice, software tools, forms, web site links, and more. The initial phase of the project will build the infrastructure for knowledge management and populate the deskbook with available data.

Financial Management Direct Deposits are shorter-term projects that provide an immediate benefit to the community. These include the following projects for FY03:

- **TDD 03-1 Establish Automated Tools Forum.** Col Rich Weathers, HQ USAFE, Task Force Lead, with Capt Jose Andin and Ms Theresa Sorenson, Co-Assistant Leads. Automated systems innovation has been a hallmark of the FM community over the years, but until now there has not been an effective way to share those tools. This Direct Deposit will establish a vehicle to gather, evaluate and distribute automated tools throughout the Financial Management community.

- **TDD 03-2, End-to-End Governance Review.** Col Rory Cahoon, HQ PACAF, Task Force Lead, and Maj Beth Eidal, Assistant Lead. This initiative will look for opportunities to reduce the workload resulting from regulation, policy, reporting requirements, funding thresholds, internal constraints, and other limitations levied by the Air Force Financial Management

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Community at the headquarters, MAJCOMs, and wing levels. It will also provide a forum for suggestions from the Financial Management community for reducing the workload caused by reporting and regulatory requirements.

These initiatives all have some common threads. They all seek to improve the decision support we provide our commanders and they will reduce the administrative burdens on our people. But more than that, there is a synergy about them. Taken individually, they will improve the way we do business, but taken as a whole, they can truly become transformational. For example, the O&M Decision Support initiative can benefit from the analytical models and tools that may be developed by the Acquisition Decision Support initiative, as well as those presented through the automated tools forum. As the Air Force/DFAS relationship initiative improves the quality of accounting records, FMA can reduce its workload in the review and validation of accounting data. Similar workload reductions resulting from the Governance review may free time for additional analysis and all of the best practices will be captured by the Knowledge Management System. As you can see, the possibilities are many.

Our schedule for Transformation is tight and the teams are working hard to produce tangible results by the end of the fiscal year. There is no doubt we will make improvements, but transforming Air Force Financial Management will take a concerted effort by the entire community. When you are asked for input, please contribute. When you are asked to try something new, give it your best effort. When new skills are required for the enhanced analytical role we will be asked to play, take advantage of the training provided. And most importantly, when you are asked by a task force to participate, step up to the challenge of creating the future of Air Force Financial Management.

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